



Swanscombe
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR, 1957



M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs. M.J. Wright (Chairman)
" L.W. Davidson (Vice Chairman)
" W. Austen
" E.W. Blackwell
" T. Bodle
" T.G. Burgess
" C.W. Butcher
" P. Connolly
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" J.T. Mitchell
" V.F. Jenkins
" W.O. Keary
" A.E. Lewis
" L.T. Owen
" A.F. Siggers
" J. Stevenson

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer:

Mr. F. L. Sturt

Solicitors:

Messrs. Baily & Goff

Medical Officer of Health:

M. F. McDonnell, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

Meat & Food Inspector:

A. J. Munford, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
(who is also Surveyor)

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

F. W. Sharpe (part time)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1957, upon certain matters relating to the public health of the Urban District of Swanscombe.

Population. There was an increase of 30 in the Registrar General's estimate for the year, from 8900 in 1956, to 8930 for the present year.

Birth Rate. The number of births during the year was 123, a decrease of 18 over the previous year, giving a rate for the district of 13.77. The rate for England and Wales is 16.1.

The still-birth figure is low, at 2 in number, providing a rate of 13.9 which compares favourably with that of the country as a whole.

General Death Rate. Swanscombe's death rate for 1957 was 8.7 per thousand of the population; the number of deaths being 78. The rate for England and Wales is 11.5.

Natural increase of the Population. The total births in 1957 exceeded the total deaths by 45. The figures for 1956 and 1955 were 39 and 61 respectively, the present figures are therefore relatively good.

Infant Mortality. The rate for deaths of infants under one year is low at 24.3, the rate for the whole country being 23.0. The actual number of infants who died during the year was 3. This figure is good, and shows the improvement of recent years is being maintained.

Provision of Health Services in the Area. Following my usual custom, I have included a summary of the local health services available. These services are administered by the Kent County Council as the local health authority, and I have also included an up-to-date time-table in the form of an Appendix to the report.

Cancer. The general public has a completely wrong idea about cancer - they imagine that it automatically means death; yet there are thousands of cured cancer patients living happy, useful lives.

The reason why so many people do not know that thousands are cured is because many of those patients were never told that they had cancer - to them it was 'stomach trouble,' or a duodenal ulcer. This 'justifiable distortion of the truth' is one of the unwritten laws of the medical profession.

One reason why ex-patients will not publicise their cure is that the general public still believes that cancer is infectious or contagious. They also have the equally false idea that it is hereditary. If people would only recognise the basic danger signals, such as persistent sores, lumps or thickening, unusual bleeding or discharge, hoarseness or cough, and report them early, they would give themselves and the doctor a far better chance of cure. These danger signals may not mean cancer, but they should always mean an immediate visit to your doctor for general physical examination, blood test and X-ray. I cannot stress too strongly that once cancer has been allowed to spread, it is extremely difficult for any surgeon to effect a cure.

What is cancer? The cells of the human body divide repeatedly and it is indeed a miracle that such a delicate mechanism can operate successfully for so long. These individual cells recreate themselves day in and day out to form part of our bodies; each has a little character-forming element, infinitesimally small, called the nutro-protein. This element seems to know what it wants the oncoming cells to do, and if we bombard this little element with a cancer-causing agent, it can change quite easily and regularly the character, shape and substance of the oncoming cell.

This can be done in test laboratories to live human cells in test tubes, or to small animals. When, for example, a mouse is painted with a chemical known to change the character-forming elements of the cell, the mouse becomes cancerous. Cancer-causing elements are common in scientific research and consist of well over 200 chemicals currently used in industry. It has long been known that soot is a cancer-causing agent, also diesel oil fumes, concentrated petrol fumes, and concentrated hot cigarette fumes. The interesting problem is why some people exposed to all these various cancer-causing agents do not get the disease. Scientists have concluded that, apart from a concentrated dose of any one carcinogen which few people's cells could withstand, those who are physically ill-balanced are most susceptible to cancer. In fact, you and I, all of us, are throwing off the cancer virus, both the dormant and the active kind, every day of our lives, but if something upsets the glandular balance of the body, which stems from the pituitary at the base of the skull, we become likely 'customers.' Great mental stress or anxiety can disturb the pituitary, and it has been found that cancer follows. For example, statistics show that many women develop cancer of the breast as a delayed reaction after great emotional strain.

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	1957	20	Death rate per thousand pop.	2.2.
	1956	10	"	"
	1955	19	"	"

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDonnell,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Swanscombe. England and Wales.

Live. Still. Live.

Birth rate per thousand pop.	1957	13.77	0.22	16.1
" " "	1956	15.84	0.22	15.7
" " "	1955	14.3	0.22	15.0
Number of illegitimate births	1957	..	..	..
" " "	1956	..	..	..
" " "	1955	..	..	..
Number of deaths	1957	..	..	..
" " "	1956	..	..	..
" " "	1955	..	..	..

Swanscombe. England and Wales.

Death rate per 1,000 population 1957 8.7 11.5
 " " " " " 1956 8.1 11.7
 " " " " " 1955 9.1 11.7

	Total	M.	F.	
Live legitimate	114	53	61	Birth rate per 1,000 of the
illegitimate	9	5	4	estimated resident population
Stillbirths -				Rate per 1,000 total (live
legitimate	2	2	-	and still) births
illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths	78	44	34	Death rate per 1,000 of the
				estimated resident population
				8.7

(cont'd.)

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	24.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	26.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20
" " Measles (all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT, 1957.

Causes of Death.										Male	Female
All causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	34
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Meningococcal Infection ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..										-	-
Cancer, Stomach ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Cancer, Lung, Bronchus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	-
Cancer, Breast ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Cancer, Uterus ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Lymphatic Cancers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..										6	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Diabetes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..										4	7
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Other Heart Disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
Other Circulatory Disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..										1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Congenital malformations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..										3	1
Motor vehicle accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
All other accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Suicide ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-

(cont'd.)

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT IN LOCAL INDUSTRY

The following figures relate to the number of employees in various types of Industry in the District:-

					Male	Female
Cement Industry	..	..	..	..	959	15
Paper Industry	..	..	..	..	1905	744
Wharf and Ship Yard	..	..	..	..	295	4
Mineral Water Works	..	..	..	..	42	18
Other Trades	..	..	..	..	58	16

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Services available under The National Health Service Act, 1948,
and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

The Kent County Council is responsible for providing these services and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer and his staff for the following information regarding facilities available and the day hours of attendance at the Clinics:-

Ante-Natal Clinics and Post Natal Clinics.

Advice and Ante-natal care is given and Post-natal examinations are carried out.

Scouts Hall, Church Road - 2nd and 4th Monday, 2.0 p.m.

Child Welfare Centres.

These centres are available for giving advice as to the care of infants and children under the age of five years. Infant foods, National Dried Milk and Ministry of Food Vitamin Products are issued. A Medical Officer and a Health Visitor are in attendance at each centre.

SWANSCOMBE

Scouts Hall, Church Road, Swanscombe. Thursday, 2 p.m.
North Kent Trefoil Guildhall, London Road, Greenhithe
Tuesday, 2 p.m.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

Immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against whooping-cough and smallpox are available at child welfare centres during the normal child welfare sessions and also at the Council Offices, Northfleet, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10.0 to 11.0 a.m. For smallpox vaccination an appointment is necessary.

Domestic Help Service.

Domestic help is provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mental defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. The service provided is limited to the performance of essential domestic help.

This is one of the services for which a charge may have to be made. When domestic help is provided, the head of the family concerned is asked to complete a form giving details of income and the charges to be met from that income and from this information an assessment of the charge is made. A preliminary estimate of the assessment can, if desired, be given by the district officer.

Family Help Service.

This service is restricted to families of two or more children where application has been made to the Children's Committee for the children to be taken into care during the temporary absence of the mother and the service is limited to an initial period of not more than three months.

Night Attendant Service.

Night attendant service is now available for old people but is limited to cases where the help required cannot be provided by voluntary agencies. The arrangements include evening service, preparation for sleep, provision of meals, attention to fires and night service. Application for this service should generally be made through the family doctor. Further information is obtainable from the Domestic Help Organiser at the District Office, Arthur Street, Gravesend.

Health Visitors.

These officers are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measure necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Health Visitors also undertake duties in connection with the School Health Service.

SWANSCOMBE

Miss F.E. Arnold, S.R.N., S.C.N., H.V. Cert., K.C.C. Clinic,
5 Station Road, Northfleet.

Home Nursing Service.

The County Council provides a service free of charge for the attendance on persons whose doctors require them to be nursed in their own homes. The nurse's attendance is normally arranged by the doctor, but the name and address of the appropriate nurse for any particular district is obtainable from the District Office of the County Council at:-

Arthur Street, Gravesend.
(Tel. Gravesend 166)

Midwifery Service.

The County Council arranges for the free attendance of midwives upon patients who are to be confined at home. The name and address of the appropriate midwife for any particular district is usually known to the patient's doctor, but can be obtained from the District Office of the County Council at:-

Arthur Street, Gravesend.
(Tel. Gravesend 166)

County Ambulance Service.

The County Council is responsible for the provision of a comprehensive ambulance service throughout the County. Other than in cases of accident and emergency, no ambulance will be provided except on the recommendation of a doctor, midwife, or hospital, and in the case of sitting-case cars, a special form has to be completed and signed by a doctor.

In cases of accident or emergency, if an ambulance is required, telephone "999" (or as indicated in the telephone directory or public telephone box), and ask the operator for "Ambulance."

Provision of Nursing Requisites.

Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade for the continuance of the Medical Loan Depots, on behalf of the County Council. The full range of nursing requisites are available at these depots and details of the addresses and the times the depots are open for distribution are available in the district offices. These arrangements are in addition to the loan cupboards kept by District Nurses. The depots deal with all applications for the loan of nursing requisites.

Northfleet: (St. John) 69 Dover Road. Monday to Friday,
7.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
(Mr. C.J. Sims. Telephone: Gravesend 4603)

Beds and Bedding.

A supply of beds and bedding is kept by the District Officer and is available on loan on the recommendation of the family doctor.

Mental Deficiency Service.

Information regarding the service for mental defectives can be obtained from the District Officer.

An Occupation Centre for mental defectives living in the district is established at:-

North Hall, Tivoli House, Windmill Street, Gravesend.

Hours of opening:- Ordinary School terms, Mondays to Fridays,
10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

A Home Teacher for mental defectives is also available in the area.

All enquiries regarding the Occupation Centre and Home Teaching should be addressed to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

School Health Service.

The following clinics are available for children attending schools in Swanscombe:-

Minor Ailments. West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.
Medical Officer attends every Saturday morning,
9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.

Dental. West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.
Dental Surgeon attends every Tuesday and Saturday.
Except in emergencies, children are treated by
appointment only.

Ophthalmic.	Gravesend and North Kent Hospital)
		) Attendance at these clinics is by appointment only.
Speech Therapy.	107 Rochester Road, Denton, Gravesend.)
		) Application should be made to the Principal Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.
Child Guidance.	Woodside Road, Bexley Heath.)

TREATMENT OF ANTHRAX, BOTULISM, SNAKE-BITE AND MUSHROOM POISONING.

List of the nearest centres which keep emergency supplies of sera for the treatment of anthrax, botulism, snake-bite and mushroom (*amanita phalloides*) poisoning. A 24-hour service is maintained at each centre.

Region 6: N.E. Metropolitan

North Middlesex Hospital, N.17
Day - Chief Pathologist.
Night - Resident Pathologist.

Telephone:
Tottenham 3071

Region 7: S.E. Metropolitan

South East Sub-Depot, Weaverling House,
Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Region 8: S.W. Metropolitan

South London Blood Supply Depot,
Stanley Road, Sutton, Surrey.

Telephone:
Vigilant 8221

The Dispensary, Royal South Hants
and Southampton Hospital.

Telephone:
Southampton 76211

(Snake Anti-Serum only)

Day Service

Telephone: Maidstone 4468
Maidstone 3604

Night Service

Maidstone 4660
Maidstone 3718

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT AND RECUPERATIVE CARE

Three forms of convalescent treatment are available. These are for:-

- (1) Patients who have been ill in hospital, discharged home within the previous seven days, but still require some form of treatment.
- (2) Patients who have been ill and treated at home or in hospital and still require some form of nursing or medical care as provided by a General Practitioner or Home Nurse.
- (3) Patients who have been hospital cases.

Patients in category (1) above, the doctor in charge should write to the Regional Board, Portland Place, London, asking for the "Convalescent Home" form.

In category (2) above, the doctor in charge should send a certificate to Dr. Elliott, County Hall, Maidstone, who will arrange recuperative care at Homes situated in Herne Bay, Whitstable, etc.

Patients in category (3) will have convalescence arranged by the Lady Almoner of the hospital.

Family Planning Association.

Medway Towns Branch of the Family Planning Association announced that their Clinic was opened on Thursday, September 23rd, at All Saints Hospital, Chatham (Ante-Natal Clinic). Thursday evenings - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Accidents in the Home - Burns and Scalds.

Attention is again drawn to this matter. More than 6,000 persons die each year because of accidents in the home. It is estimated that upwards of 50,000 non-fatal accidents require hospital treatment. Most of this suffering is avoidable.

The major factor is clothing coming into contact with heating elements or flame of an inadequately guarded fire.

Most fatal home accidents are due to burns in the very young or in extreme old age. Inadequate supervision of young children, and the aged whose senses may be failing and physical and mental deterioration may reduce the capacity to co-ordinate thought and action.

Carelessness, apathy and lack of knowledge are the causes of most accidents in the home, and it is the personal contact of doctors, nurses and social workers with the people in their homes that is likely to bring most rewarding results.

Fireguards must be securely fixed; kitchens should be carefully planned and of adequate size, and well lighted.

District Officers.

These officers are responsible for:-

- (a) Duties as Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts.
- (b) Acting as representatives of the County Health Departments in dealing with inquiries made by the public and arranging for County Health Services to be made available in cases of difficulty.
- (c) Carrying out the duties of the County Council under the National Assistance Act in (i) arranging admissions for old, handicapped and homeless people to residential establishments other than in cases of sickness, and (ii) the care of moveable property of patients who are admitted to hospital or to residential establishments provided by the County Council, where it appears that there is a danger of loss or damage to the property.

(d) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

District Officer: Mr. G.T. Jeffery, Arthur Street, Gravesend.
Telephone: Gravesend 166.

Hospital Services.

The hospital and specialist services, including institutions for the chronic sick, mental homes, maternity homes, convalescent homes, Chest clinics and out-patients' departments are administered by the Regional Hospital Boards set up by the Minister of Health, the South-East Metropolitan Regional Board is responsible for all hospitals in Kent, but for day-to-day administration Hospital Management Committees have been set up to deal with groups of hospitals. Generally speaking, admission to hospitals is a matter for the doctor in charge of the patient and he will make arrangements direct with the hospital authorities, calling upon the County Ambulance Service for the removal of the patient to hospital where this is considered necessary.

Nursery School.

The Northfleet Nursery School provides accommodation for the daily care of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Priority is given to the children of mothers who must go to work in order to supplement insufficient wages; widows, children living in unhealthy, cramped home conditions; or where a doctor recommends admittance because of unsuitable home life. The staff is trained to deal with difficult children who need more psychological understanding than that provided at home.

Hours of attendance at the Nursery Schools are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with normal school holiday periods. Meals are provided for the sum of 2/6d. per week. In addition to the ordinary diet, Ministry of Health Cod Liver Oil Compound, Orange Juice and two-thirds of a pint of milk may be given.

At present 40 children are accommodated at the Nursery - most of them being from the Northfleet area. Application for admission should be made to the Superintendent (Mrs. Dowker) at the Northfleet Nursery School, London Road, Northfleet.

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Application for the admission of infectious diseases to hospital should be made to the Medical Superintendent of the River Hospital. In the case of Small Pox, admission to hospital is arranged by the Consultants who diagnose the disease or by the Medical Officer of Health on his behalf. Telephone: Dartford 3231.

Special arrangements have been made for cases occurring amongst the Cadets in the Worcester Training Ship moored off Greenhithe. These are removed by launch to the Port of London Authority Hospital, Gravesend. Telephone: Gravesend 257.

Scarlet Fever:

Cases notified	...	8
Cases removed to hospital	0	
% of cases removed	...	0

Measles:

Cases notified	...	...	35
Cases removed to hospital			0
% of cases removed	...	0	

Whooping Cough:

Cases notified	...	80
Cases removed to hospital	0	
% of cases removed	...	0

Pneumonia:

Cases notified	...	...	6
Cases removed to hospital			0
% of cases removed	...	0	

Erysipelas:

Cases notified	...	0
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Diphtheria:

Cases notified	0
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Dysentery:

Cases notified	...	0
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Poliomyelitis:

Cases notified	2
Cases removed to hospital			2
% of cases removed	...	0	100%

Paratyphoid Fever:

Cases notified	...	0
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Enteric or Typhoid Fever:

Cases notified	0
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Puerperal Pyrexia:

Cases notified	...	0
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Acute Encephalitis:

Cases notified	0
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Food Poisoning:

Cases notified	...	0
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Malaria:

Cases notified	1
Cases removed to hospital			1
% of cases removed	...	0	100%

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1957.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Swanscombe Urban District who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1957:-

(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Primary Inoculations	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	9	4	1	10	85	5	119
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	1	1	26	-	7	4	44	6	1	1	-	-	91

(B) VACCINATION.

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total		
Primary Vaccination	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	2	1	49	40	9	104
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	8

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1957.

The following table gives the numbers of children resident in the Swanscombe Urban District who received a course of two injections against Poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Born	62	47	40	43	14	9	10	17	-	-	-	242

- Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1957.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1943).

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1953 - 1957	13	20	4	37	129	106	102	113	102	101	112	117	103	95	5	1159
1952 or earlier	56	71	69	91	40	9	53	17	22	3	-	-	-	-	-	431

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum have been notified during the year.

Venereal Diseases.

County Hospital, Dartford.	Mondays	4 - 6 p.m. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	(Males) (Females)
22 Cobham Street, Gravesend.	Tuesdays	9 a.m. - 12 noon 12 noon - 2 p.m.	(Males) (Females)
	Saturdays	9 a.m. 9.30 a.m.	(Males) (Females)

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending Dartford and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from Swanscombe Urban District:-

	New Patients	Total
Syphilis	-
Gonorrhoea	2
Non-Gonococcal Urethritis	2
Non-Venereal	3
Total No. of attendances of Swanscombe Patients	..	31

There were no defaulters from the Swanscombe area before completion of treatment during 1957.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Registration District.

Registrar:

Darent Valley
Comprising Swanscombe U.D.C.
and Dartford R.D.

Mrs. J. Maltby

Head Office:

The Register Office,
West Hill,
Dartford. Telephone No.3881

Monday	9 a.m. - 12 noon	
Tuesday	9 a.m. - 12 noon	
Wednesday	9 a.m. - 12 noon	2 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Thursday	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	
Friday	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	

Registration Station:

Primitive Methodist Schoolroom,
Church Road,
Swanscombe. 2nd & 4th Thursday of each
month.
Hours 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Reports received on samples taken from various sources on the
Metropolitan Water Board Supply to the area.

Date.	Probable number of Coliform bacilli, McConkey 2 days 37 deg. C. per 100 ML.	Probable number of faecal Coli per 100 ML.
5. 2. 57	None	None
20. 3. 57	None	None
9. 4. 57	None	None
1. 7. 57	None	None
30. 7. 57	None	None
2.10. 57	None	None
11.12. 57	None	None

Reports received on samples taken from various wells and mains
supplying factories situated in the District.

Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers:-

Date.	Probable number of Coliform bacilli, McConkey 2 days 37 deg. C. per 100 ML.	Probable number of faecal Coli per 100 ML.
4. 1. 57	None	None
20. 5. 57	None	None

Empire Paper Mills, Ltd.

3. 6. 57	None	None
19.11. 57	None	None

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.

The break point chlorinating plant continues to produce highly satisfactory results, as the following reports show:-

Date		Probable number per 100 ML of Coliform Bacilli	Faecal Coli
3. 6. 57	Shallow End	None	None
	Deep End	None	None
18. 6. 57	Shallow End	None	None
	Deep End	None	None
1. 7. 57	Shallow End	1	None
	Deep End	None	None
8. 7. 57	Shallow End	2	None
	Deep End	None	None
15. 7. 57	Shallow End	None	None
	Deep End	None	None
30. 7. 57	Shallow End	None	None
	Deep End	None	None
8. 8. 57	Shallow End	None	None
	Deep End	None	None

Attendances 1956:-

Adults 1,762	Spectators	588
Children paid for admission		9,597
Children from schools		4,505
Beaver Swimming Club		898
Season Ticket Holders		566

Attendances 1957:-

Adults 4,298	Spectators	931
Children paid for admission		13,123
School Children during holiday		1,384
Children from schools		5,502
Empire Paper Mills Sports Club		354
Season Ticket Holders		727

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Tabulated results of analysis of matter collected in Deposit Gauge situated on roof of Swimming Pool, London Road, Greenhithe, during the year.

Date 1957	Rainfall Ins.	Deposit (grams per 100 square metres)		
		Total water Insoluble Matter	Total water Soluble Matter	Tons per square Mile
January	0.67	252	421	17.17
February	2.04	713	937	42.06
March	0.63	749	715	37.33
April	0.32	696	591	32.79
May	0.70	897	658	39.65
June	0.45	957	574	39.04
July	2.79	1307	1057	60.28
August	2.04	1280	1104	60.79
September	2.00	946	908	47.27
October	1.11	1031	1093	54.16
November	3.19	864	1180	52.11
December	1.41	625	1061	42.99

ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD

Date 1957	Area Exposed	Weight of BaSO ₄			Wt of SO ₂ Collected	MG of SO ₃ / day col- lected any 100 sq. cm. of Batch A PbO ₂ (Lou- vred Cover)
		In Sample	In Control	Due to Exposure		
		Sq. CM	MG	MG		
Jan.	95	124.4	2.9	121.5	1.41	1.27
Feb.	95	134.4	3.1	131.3	1.69	1.52
Mar.	95	104.0	3.8	100.2	1.17	1.05
Apr.	100	99.6	3.2	96.4	1.10	0.99
May	100	114.8	1.9	112.9	1.17	1.05
June	95	108.8	1.6	107.2	1.38	1.24
July	95	124.0	3.8	120.2	1.40	1.26
Aug.	95	125.6	1.8	123.8	1.40	1.26
Sept.	100	118.6	3.2	115.4	1.36	1.22
Oct.	100	117.8	1.5	116.3	1.29	1.16
Nov.	95	162.6	3.2	159.4	1.86	1.67
Dec.	95	168.8	5.0	163.8	1.97	1.77

MILK SUPPLY

Sterilized Milk.

Thirty six samples of milk were submitted for the prescribed test, all samples were satisfactory.

Pasteurised Milk.

Public Supplies.

Twenty samples taken from the distributors in the district, satisfied the prescribed test.

School Milk.

Ten samples of School milk as supplied by W.E. Southwood, Vale Road Dairy, Northfleet, were taken during the year. Six of the samples satisfied the test. Three were invalidated due to high atmospheric shade temperatures and one was unsatisfactory due to a defect in pasteurising plant.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

There are thirty-five premises in the district, thirty-four registered for retail only, and one is registered to manufacture Ice Cream, by cold mix process. Two hundred and twenty five samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, with the result 188 were Grade I, 34 were Grade II, 3 were Grade III. No Pathogenic organisms were cultivated.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

I submit for consideration my Annual Report of work undertaken by the Health Department during the year 1957.

ROUTINE DUTIES - PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Number of complaints received during the year	..	..	..	..	..	126
Total number of visits made	..	..	..	..	..	1482
Preliminary Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	40
" " complied with	..	..	..	..	..	37
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	21
" " complied with	..	..	..	..	..	19

Infection and Disinfection.

During the year, 135 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, viz:-

Scarlet fever	8
Tuberculosis	9
Measles	35
Whooping Cough	80
Poliomyelitis	2
Malaria	1

Included in this was the supervision of the disinfection of the cases.

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied during the year:-

Accumulations of offensive refuse removed 3
Animals in an unfit state 3

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection.

During 1957 the refuse collecting vehicle was replaced by a new 10 cubic yard side loading vehicle. Approximately 14,300 cubic yards house refuse were removed during the year.

Despite difficulties due to staff shortages, the service was generally able to operate a seven day collection period throughout the district.

Disposal.

Controlled tipping is carried out in the shallow disused gravel pit at Craylands Lane, Swanscombe.

DRAINAGE SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The improvement of Sewer and Sewage disposal works estimated to cost £69,000 was postponed due to the temporary restriction on capital expenditure.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955.

Details of Samples taken by the Food & Drugs Officers in the District during the year ended 31st December, 1957:-

Article	No.
Albucid Ointment	1
Amber	1
Bitta-Sweet	1
Bradosol Lozenges	1
Bread and Butter	1
Bun Loaf	1
Digitalis Tablets	1
Dry Ginger Ale	1
Flour	3
Gin	1
Ginger Beer	1
Ice Cream	1
Lactachoc	1
Meat Pies	1
Milk	15
Phenergan Tablets	1
Siccolam	1
Syrup 'N' Tonic	1

Vimto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>
														Total	36

SUMMARY

Milks	...	15
Drugs	...	6
Spirits	...	2
Other samples	13	<u>—</u>
	Total	36
		<u>—</u>

All of the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Sample of:	Analysis:	Action Taken:
Flour)	Contaminated with mouse and	Legal proceedings were instituted
Flour)	mouse droppings.	Defendant was convicted and fined
Flour)		£20. plus £8.8.0 costs.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following amount of food was examined and declared unsound during the year:-

49 lbs. 15 ozs.	Meat (other than shown below)
20 lbs. 14 ozs.	Tin Fruit.
3 lbs. 3 ozs.	Tin Vegetables.
510 lbs.	National Flour.

Various articles of food damaged by fire were removed by Salvage Merchants under an arrangement made with the L.C.C. Food Inspectorate for their inspection:

157 Bottles Soft Drinks
 22 lbs. Biscuits
 1042 Tins of various Fruits, Meats and Vegetables.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There is one slaughterhouse licensed in the district and the following are particulars of carcasses inspected.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	-	-	-	-	145
Number inspected	-	-	-	-	145
All Diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	1
	<p>One whole carcass included in the above was condemned during the year as a result of Haemorrhage, Discolouration and general oedema.</p> <p>Of the above, parts of 3 pig carcasses were condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis; this represents 2.7% of the total.</p> <p>No evidence of Tuberculosis was found in any of the carcasses.</p>				

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

The following defects in food premises have been remedied as result of action under the regulations during 1957:-

1. Unsuitable surfaces for preparation of food	..	..	..	..	8
2. Clothing cleanliness	..	..	..	..	4
3. Sanitary accommodation.	Provided	..	..	..	1
" "	Cleanliness	..	..	..	1
" "	Repair	..	..	..	1
4. Constant hot water supply	..	..	..	..	10
5. Wash hand basins	..	..	..	..	10
6. Soap nail brushes towels	..	..	..	..	9
7. First Aid equipment	..	..	..	..	6

8. Clothing Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
9. Equipment washing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
10. Detergents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
11. Washing Cloths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
12. Drying Cloths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
13. Lighting	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
14. Ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
15. Walls, floor, doors, ceiling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
16. Woodwork etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(a) Cleanliness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(b) Repair	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
17. Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
18. Refrigeration Storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
19. Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

HOUSING ACTS

Inspection of Dwellings.

1. No. inspected for defects.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	196
2. No. found to be unfit for human habitation.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
3. No. found to require repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
4. No. rendered fit in consequence of informal action by L.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
5. No. rendered fit as result of Statutory Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Closing Orders.

Owing to scarcity of suitable building land, it was not possible during the year to represent whole areas for clearance as the necessary undertaking to provide suitable alternative accommodation could not be implemented. Houses included in the Slum Clearance Programme, however, were considered individually on their merits (or lack of them). Of the 8 houses shown in (2) above, 6 were the subject of undertakings from the persons in control that they would not be re-let, and 2 which were obsolete cottages acquired by the Council were demolished as the result of a Certificate from the Medical Officer as to their unfitness under the Provisions of the Housing Subsidies Bill 1956 Appendix II. The occupants were rehoused and the site has now been redeveloped.

Swanscombe's biggest single problem with regard to Slum Clearance still remains the ex-Prisoner of War Site. This comprises 38 huts originally constructed for accommodating German Prisoners of War but now converted as dwellings. During the year the Council rehoused 15 families and promised the remaining occupants of this Camp that absolute priority would be given to their rehousing during 1958. It is proposed to provide the necessary alternative accommodation within the next 12 months.

Improvement Grants.

During the year, 5 schemes were submitted and approved for work of improvement and conversion. All were from owner occupiers and all were approved for the purposes of grant. The Council gave a 50% grant of the approved cost of each case.

Rent Act, 1957.

Applications were received for four Certificates of Disrepair during the year. Undertakings to carry out works were received in respect of three of the premises and in the remaining case the Certificate was issued.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The following statement shows briefly the action taken under this Act during 1957:-

Total inspections carried out	316
Number of properties found to be infested	67

All the infested properties were treated with generally satisfactory results, and it was not necessary to take any statutory action in this respect during the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

Prior Approval.

During the year one application was received under Section 3 of the Act, for prior approval of the installation of a new furnace and chimney. After unsuccessful efforts were made to form a local advisory panel to consider all such applications in the area, fuel efficiency consultants, in conjunction with the Chief Public Health Inspector, were asked to submit to the Council their views on the proposal. The report showed:-

- (1) The boiler plant complied with the best modern practice and was supplied by a reputable manufacturer.
- (2) The oil burning equipment was fully automatic and capable of burning heavy grade petroleum oils efficiently and smokelessly.
- (3) It should comply with the requirements of Section 3, 5 and 6 of the Clean Air Act.

- (4) After consideration of the relevant site factors and under normal operating conditions, the height of the proposed chimney should comply with Section 10 (1) of the Act.
- (5) That the Swanscombe Urban District Council be recommended to give prior approval to the Scheme.

In view of the report, the Council gave their official notice of prior approval to the Scheme.

Smoke Control Areas.

The Council did not take any action in this respect during the year.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Public Health Inspector.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)
Factories with Mechanical power	15	10
Factories without Mechanical power	15	-
Other premises under the Act	5	5
Totals	35	15

2. Defects found.

No defects were referred to H.M. Inspector during the year.

I am.

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. MUNFORD,
Public Health Inspector.

